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evident that a cash crop was needed to exploit fully the potentialities of the area and to make it self-supporting.

"A small quantity of X1730 A cottonseed was therefore introduced from Tokar in the Sudan in the 1946-47 season and though this was not successful in the first year, when tried again in 1948-49 it gave an average yield of some 1,750 lbs. of seed cotton per acre from an area of 80 acres. Production thereafter increased rapidly, reaching 1,500 bales of 400 lb. in the following year (1949-50) and 9,900 bales in 1950-1951.

METHOD OF CULTIVATION

"The system of irrigation used in Abyan resembles most closely, but is not identical with, that of the Gash and Tokar in the Sudan. After the rains in July-September the water flows down from the mountains in two wadis, the Bana and the Hassan, and is held by slightly bow-shaped bunds about 30 feet high with a base of some 50 feet. From these the water is directed by means of deflectors into rough canals and thence into the fields. Later the upper-most bund is broken and the water goes down to the next bund where the process is repeated. This is continued until eventually the unused water finds its way to the sea.

"Cotton is planted about 10 days after watering, in furrows made by an ox plough and is later thinned to leave single plants at a spacing of 1 metre by 1 metre. The plants, which rely entirely on the moisture in the soil at the time of planting, often grow to a height of 12-13 feet, and produce a good crop, with lint which is little, if any, inferior to that spun from similar cotton grown in the Sudan.

ABYAN BOARD

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"In order to develop the irrigation system in Abyan, an Abyan Board was formed in 1947 representing the interests of the Department of Agriculture and the states concerned. The crops are grown on a cooperative basis, as in the Sudan, the proceeds being divided between the cultivator, the Abyan Board and the landowner. At present 50 per cent goes to the cultivator, 25 per cent to the Board and 25 per cent to the landowner. State taxes of 5 or 10 per cent are payable by the landlords, depending on the status of the land.

"The Board purchases the seed cotton from the cultivator at a fixed price, gins the seed cotton and sells the lint at present to the Raw Cotton Commission with whom a five-year agreement has been made. Any profit resulting from the sale of lint is used to continue the development and expansion of the scheme.

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OTHER AREAS

"Cotton is also grown in the Ahwar, Lodar and Yeramis districts, and in Lahej, where a small cotton growing industry has existed for a long time, with asiatic and punctatum types predominating. These types are a potential source of danger to the improved types grown in Abyan, both on account of the risk of deterioration in seed through accidental crossing and the introduction of pests such as pink bollworm. Attempts are now being made to bring cotton cultivation in Lahej under control in order to minimize these dangers.